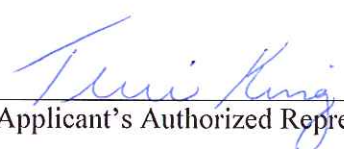


SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Kings County Association of Governments 339 West "D" Street, Suite B Lemoore, CA 93245		Proposed Date of Completion: 12/2013	
<div style="text-align: right; margin-right: 20px;">Check One</div> <div style="display: flex; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> <div style="width: 100px; text-align: right;">.....</div> <div style="width: 100px; text-align: center;">City</div> <div style="width: 100px;"></div> </div> <div style="display: flex; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> <div style="width: 100px; text-align: right;">.....</div> <div style="width: 100px; text-align: center;">County</div> <div style="width: 100px;"></div> </div> <div style="display: flex; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> <div style="width: 100px; text-align: right;">.....</div> <div style="width: 100px; text-align: center;">MPO</div> <div style="width: 100px;"></div> </div> <div style="display: flex; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> <div style="width: 100px; text-align: right;">.....</div> <div style="width: 100px; text-align: center;">COG</div> <div style="width: 100px;"></div> </div> <div style="display: flex; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> <div style="width: 100px; text-align: right;">.....</div> <div style="width: 100px; text-align: center;">RTPA</div> <div style="width: 100px;"></div> </div> <div style="display: flex; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> <div style="width: 100px; text-align: right;">.....</div> <div style="width: 100px; text-align: center;">JPA</div> <div style="width: 100px;"></div> </div> <div style="display: flex; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> <div style="width: 100px; text-align: right;">.....</div> <div style="width: 100px; text-align: center;">Joint Proposal.</div> <div style="width: 100px; text-align: center;">X</div> </div>		Grant Amount Requested: \$385,000 If joint Proposal, list participating entities/contact person: County of Kings, Greg Gatzka City of Avenal, Steve Sopp City of Corcoran, Susan Atkins City of Hanford, Cathy Cain City of Lemoore, Holly Smyth	
Lead Applicant's Name: Terri King			
Title of Proposal: Kings County County-wide Climate Action Plan			
Applicant's Representative Authorized in Resolution Name: Terri King Title: Executive Director Phone: (559)582-3211 Ext 2678 Email: terri.king@co.kings.ca.us		Person with Day to Day Responsibility for the Plan Name: Christina Lehn Title: Regional Planner Phone: (559) 582-3211 Ext. 2677 Email: chris.lehn@co.kings.ca.us	
<i>Check all of the following that are incorporated or applicable to the proposal:</i>			
Focus Area		Program Objectives	
	Focus Area #1	X	Applying for 20% EDC set aside
	Focus Area #2		
X	Focus Area #3	X	Improve air and water quality
Eligibility Requirements (Mandatory)		X	Promote public health
X	Consistent with State Planning Priorities	X	Promote equity
X	Reduces GHG emissions on a permanent basis	X	Increase affordable housing
X	Collaboration requirement	X	Increase infill and compact development
Priority Considerations		X	Revitalize urban and community centers
X	Demonstrates collaboration & community involvement	X	Protect natural resources and agricultural lands
X	Addresses climate change impacts	X	Reduce automobile usage and fuel consumption
X	Serves as best practices	X	Improve infrastructure systems
X	Leverages additional resources	X	Promote water conservation
X	Serves an economically disadvantaged community	X	Promote energy efficiency and conservation
X	Serves a severely disadvantaged community	X	Strengthen the economy
I certify the information contained in this plan application, including required attachments, is complete and accurate			
Signature: <u></u> Applicant's Authorized Representative as shown in Resolution		8-31-10 Date	
Print name and Title: <u>Terri King, Executive Director</u>			

PROPOSAL SUMMARY STATEMENT:

On behalf of the County of Kings and the cities of Avenal, Corcoran, Hanford and Lemoore, the Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) is pleased to submit this application for a Kings County County-wide Climate Action Plan (CAP). The Kings County Locally-Preferred Blueprint Scenario outlined how residents want their communities to grow in the future. We will build on this success to provide a tangible resource for citizens and local governments to begin fully integrating sustainable living and planning practices into our communities. A county-wide climate action plan is the best means to achieve this as it will quantify greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions from mitigation measures and strategies found in our agencies' existing planning documents. We intend on utilizing the ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability Five Milestone Methodology to render a county-wide climate action plan that is uniquely designed for Kings County. These milestones as outlined by ICLEI's website are as follows:

- Milestone 1: Conduct a baseline emissions inventory and forecast
- Milestone 2: Adopt an emissions reduction target for the forecast year
- Milestone 3: Develop a local climate action plan
- Milestone 4: Implement policies and measures
- Milestone 5: Monitor and verify results

KCAG and its member agencies have a long-established tradition of collaboration. As a testament to this, we are one of the few regions in the state that has a Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element Update. Our county-wide climate action plan will be a visionary document that will enable future generations to enjoy Kings County to its fullest. The plan will focus on place-making, infill development, downtown revitalization, energy conservation, water quality improvement and conservation, agricultural preservation, open space preservation, public health, social equity, air quality improvement, and alternative modes of transportation. We are pursuing mitigation measures that will achieve these goals while maintaining the one-of-a-kind, rural charm that can only be found in Kings County.

KCAG and its member agencies have a precedent of environmental leadership and stewardship in their planning endeavors. Currently, over 90% of land in Kings County is zoned as open space or agricultural land. The County of Kings' 2035 General Plan contains an agricultural preservation plan to protect this vital resource. The City of Hanford has undertaken a downtown revitalization effort through its East Downtown Development Study. The City of Lemoore utilizes solar energy in some of its municipal buildings and is retrofitting others for increased energy efficiency. The City of Avenal recently unveiled a movie theatre mixed-use development project in the heart of its downtown. The City of Corcoran will be simultaneously working on a targeted General Plan update that will include zoning and ordinance updates that will promote a more walkable and bikeable community while encouraging housing above retail and/or live/work units.

KCAG commends our member agencies on these sustainable planning practices and appreciates the difficulty that can come with integrating smart growth practices into rural communities. As a county inextricably tied to the old west, Kings County needs a climate action plan that focuses on smart growth strategies that speak to our unequivocally western communities. To help us realize the goal of a sustainable future, we have crafted a proposal with three different work plans that demonstrate how the plan will be developed if this application is funded at 100%, 60%, or 40%. In the fully funded budget, a monitoring tool would be developed along with the CAP for stakeholders to actively track and monitor their reductions. The 60% budget allows for a CAP that is more limited in scope with a more rudimentary reporting tool. The 40% budget would fund the greenhouse gas emissions inventory and mitigation measures for municipalities to reduce emissions. The three budgets are detailed in Appendix A.

STEP ONE: PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

1a. Describe how the Proposal is consistent with the State's Planning Priorities, Section 65041.1 of the Government Code: Promote infill development and invest in existing communities.

The county-wide climate action plan will place emphasis on promoting infill development and redevelopment in existing communities. Engaging developers and citizens in appreciating the need for infill development will be a key way to foster continued and increased investment in already developed communities. Potential strategies to be evaluated in our climate action plan are outlined below:

- 1) Maintaining an online database of vacant properties and infill lots for developers and planners
- 2) Working with the Kings County Assessor's Office to create a GIS layer of infill sites
- 3) Establishing an award for redeveloped properties that maintain aesthetic standards
- 4) Evaluating inclusionary zoning options to promote mixed-use development
- 5) Providing best practices for transit-oriented development, compact development, and mixed-use development for developers and planners

1b. Describe how the Proposal is consistent with the State's Planning Priorities, Section 65041.1 of the Government Code: Protect, preserve and enhance environmental and agricultural lands, and natural and recreational resources.

Our climate action plan will provide guidance on strategies designed to protect and maintain our natural resources. As mentioned in the summary statement, the County of Kings has an agricultural preservation plan that focuses on maintaining and preserving our vibrant agricultural industry. We will incorporate this and strategies detailed in the Step 2: Program Objectives section of this application into the CAP.

1c. Describe how the Proposal is consistent with the State's Planning Priorities, Section 65041.1 of the Government Code: Encourage location and resource efficient development.

Our plan will focus on downtown revitalization, infill development and infrastructural improvements to promote location and resource-efficient development. These strategies were modeled and integrated into the draft proposed GHG reduction targets KCAG proposed to the Air Resources Board (ARB) in May 2010. Additionally, our member agencies' general plans underscore the need to invest in our communities in order for our region to enjoy a sustainable future.

2a (i). Describe how the Proposal will (and include in work plan) reduce, on as permanent a basis that is feasible, greenhouse gas emissions consistent with California's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. How will the Proposal reduce greenhouse emissions as compared with business as usual through 2020 and beyond?

The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) represents a critical turning point in California's history. Our plan will build on ARB's adopted scoping plan to outline ways for local governments, private businesses and citizens to consume fewer resources in their daily operations. We will develop an emissions inventory with a 2005 baseline that evaluates how to reduce emissions in 2020, 2035 and 2050. Ways to achieve the goals of the scoping plan to be discussed in our plan are outlined below:

Municipal and Community Energy Use: The inventory will examine existing emissions in these sectors and indicate appropriate conservation and retrofitting strategies for reducing these emissions in the future. Additionally, we hope to evaluate our region's readiness to enter into a cap-and-trade program should one be developed through the Cool Climate Registry or another such entity.

KCAG (Focus Area #3) - Kings County County-Wide Climate Action Plan Application

Municipal and Community Waste Reduction/Recycling: Strategies to increase recycling and reduce waste will be evaluated in the plan. During the implementation and monitoring phase, we hope to track e-waste recycling participation and other recycling efforts to demonstrate an increase in these outcomes.

Community-Wide Water Conservation and Water Reclamation: Our plan will evaluate ways to incorporate xeriscaping and elective water conservation programs to promote AB 32's objectives. Water is of the utmost importance in Kings County as a drought-prone region with naturally low annual rainfall.

Urban Greening and Forests: Given our region's naturally arid climate, our plan's xeriscaping section will enable public works departments to promote urban greening and urban forestry programs in a sustainable manner. This section will compliment the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint's greenprint effort.

Improvements to Community Transportation Systems that Increase Low Carbon Transportation Options: There are currently several compressed natural gas (CNG) facilities in our jurisdictions. Many of the vehicles in our agencies' fleets are clean vehicles as CMAQ funding is frequently used to upgrade existing vehicles to CNG. We envision these vehicles will increase as low carbon vehicle options are expanded. As part of the implementation and monitoring of the Kings County CAP, we will track the number of clean vehicles in our fleets as part of the municipal emissions reductions in Figure 1-1 (Appendix C).

Community Land Use Policies that Encourage Energy Efficiency and Reduce Vehicle Travel: In addition to the previously mentioned focus on energy efficient retrofitting, increased bicycle and walking trips are vital ways to promote public health, improve air quality, and achieve the state's ambitious objectives of AB 32. Our communities' relatively small populations make them prime candidates for increase bicycle trips. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) launched a "Make One Change" advertising campaign where elected officials across the valley promote air quality improvement strategies on billboards. Kings County Supervisor Tony Barba and Hanford City Councilmember David Ayers are both featured in this campaign promoting vehicle efficiency and alternative modes of transportation. Our plan will build on this momentum to evaluate outreach efforts to reduce vehicle trips and promote bicycling and walking.

2a (ii). Identify the indicators that will be used to measure whether the Proposal will meet greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets or requirements?

The emission reduction targets in the inventory process will be consistent with ARB's adopted scoping plan and with the SB 375 GHG reduction targets set by ARB in September 2010. Step 2 of this application provides more detail, but some indicators we intend on incorporating into our monitoring program are: transit ridership, vanpool participation, residential, municipal and commercial energy consumption, residential, municipal and commercial water consumption, composting and recycling, infill development, K-12 fitness levels, bicycle racks by jurisdiction, and redevelopment projects by jurisdiction. Figure 1-1 (Appendix C) provides a detailed list of indicators that will be used to show how the Kings County CAP is helping to meet the GHG emissions reduction targets.

2b (i). Describe how the Proposal will (and include in work plan) reduce, on as permanent a basis that is feasible, greenhouse gas emissions consistent with California's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. Cite any applicable regional plan(s).

Our county-wide CAP will maintain consistency with regional documents in its identified strategies and mitigation measures. These documents all contain pieces of information relevant to a county-wide climate action plan. We will build on these documents to tangibly quantify GHG emissions reductions associated with their policies. We envision the CAP as addressing GHG emission reductions with a

broader brush than is required by either a sustainable communities strategy (SCS) or an air quality element. We hope to build on existing measures to develop a more holistic approach to the climate action plan. This should, in turn, facilitate a more holistic approach to addressing global climate change in Kings County.

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP): KCAG's 2015 RTP will be the first with an SCS. Even though our 2011 RTP does not have an SCS, KCAG's 2011 RTP outlines the importance of blueprint planning processes and alternative modes of transportation in future planning. Our plan will maintain consistency by seeking to increase bicycle trips, walking trips and vanpooling while ensuring land use strategies remain consistent with the Kings County Blueprint Smart Growth Principles (see Appendix H).

Environmental Impact Report (EIR): The EIR to KCAG's 2011 RTP contains a greenhouse gases chapter that evaluates the emissions associated with a "no build" scenario of our RTP's projects and a "build" scenario. The EIR asserts reductions in vehicle idling from the "build" scenario ameliorate air quality by reducing GHG emissions. The inventory's transportation section will maintain consistency with this concept and will include additional strategies for reducing transportation emissions.

General Plan Air Quality Elements: Our jurisdictions have adopted or are in the process of adopting air quality elements for their general plans. Section 65302.1 of the California Government Code requires all cities and counties within the jurisdiction of the SJVAPCD to add air quality elements into their general plans or amend existing elements to discuss air quality improvement strategies. The County of Kings included a GHG inventory in their air quality element (see Appendix I). This will be further expanded and integrated into our inventory.

SJVAPCD Policies: The air district has many policies that shape planning efforts in the San Joaquin Valley. Among these are their Best Performance Standards and Rule 9410, which requires large employers to reduce employee vehicle trips during business hours. Our plan will remain consistent with the air district's policies in its mitigation measures.

2b (ii). Describe how your Proposal will be consistent with the greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies in the applicable regional plan(s).

KCAG's 2015 RTP will be the first with an SCS. Though the statutory purpose of the SCS is to demonstrate emissions reductions associated with transportation, we acknowledge the co-benefits of a holistic approach to GHG reduction strategies. We intend on maintaining a holistic approach as we move forward in crafting the SCS and CAP. KCAG anticipates our 2015 SCS will build on the county-wide CAP to demonstrate the effectiveness of its mitigation measures using the indicators and outcomes detailed in Figure 1-1 (Appendix C). Additionally, our plan will use existing air quality elements to provide additional mitigation measures that are both contextually appropriate and consistent with existing planning documents.

3. Meet the Collaboration Requirements of the focus area applicable to the Proposal (See Section II).

The collaboration requirements for Focus Area #3 include submitting a joint work plan and letters of intent from all partners. Appendix E of this application contains signed letters of intent from the Kings County Board of Supervisors and the cities of Avenal, Corcoran, Hanford and Lemoore. The joint work plan identified in Appendix B details tasks that will be undertaken by each of the agencies. Additionally, Appendix F contains letters of support from the Kings County Area Public Transit Agency, the Kings County Department of Public Health, the Kings County Economic Development Corporation, and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

a. See Section III, Focusing Funds, for the Collaboration Requirements applicable to the Proposal.

As detailed in Appendix G, the average of our communities' incomes renders our region a severely disadvantaged community when compared to the 2008 state median income. While the county-wide CAP serves all of our cities and unincorporated communities, we appreciate the need for strategies specifically crafted for each of these particular jurisdictions. Assuming full funding of this proposal, area-specific strategies will be developed through an extensive public outreach effort for each of the communities in Kings County.

STEP 2: PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Figure 1-1 (Appendix C) provides a detailed synthesis of the indicators and outcomes to be incorporated into our CAP to reduce GHG emissions for the topics below.

Improve Air Quality and Water Quality: The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions account for 76.7% of all GHG emissions worldwide. Reducing our area's CO₂ emissions is tantamount to improving our air quality. ICLEI indicates an emissions inventory is a key milestone for local governments seeking to reduce GHG. Our inventory will primarily focus on strategies to reduce CO₂.

We hope to develop an inventory for transportation, municipal/county, solid waste, commercial, and residential emissions that is consistent with the strategies detailed in the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality. For the transportation component, we intend on evaluating mitigation measures to demonstrate compliance with reduction targets established by ARB as part of SB 375 implementation for light duty automobiles (LDA), light duty trucks (LDT1, LDT2), and medium duty vehicles (MDV). In early August 2010, ARB staff proposed a 5% reduction in 2020 and a 10% reduction in 2035 for KCAG. Targets will be adopted by ARB at their September 2010 board meeting.

In addition to air quality, water quality and conservation are issues of which we are acutely aware as a region. Many public water systems in Kings County exceed the state's minimum contaminant levels for arsenic. Additionally, groundwater sources in the western San Joaquin Valley have a high amount of saline and contain naturally-occurring benzene. The Kings County Water Commission has recently been reformulated to provide guidance on these issues. The reduction of ground water pollutants is an objective of the 2009 California Water Plan Update for the Tulare Lake Integration Water Management Plan. Our CAP will outline strategies to reduce arsenic and benzene levels in our water in a manner consistent with the goals of this plan.

Promote Public Health: The member agencies of KCAG have a successful track record of working together and have historically sought the Kings County Public Health Department's input into community planning and land use decisions. This can be seen by KCAG's proactively including the department as a member of their Technical Advisory Committee and regularly soliciting their comments on land use projects.

We have developed some preliminary focus areas we believe would be likely components of our plan. Our county currently benefits from two active community-based coalitions focused on reducing asthma, obesity and diabetes in the county. The expertise and data available to the members of these coalitions may be accessed to keep track of anticipated reductions in the prevalence and incidence of these health issues that a fully implemented plan may produce. In addition to capturing the information above regarding asthma, obesity and diabetes, data on the local incidence and prevalence of other chronic conditions such as heart disease and hypertension may also be tracked. Data from physical fitness test scores of school children can also be analyzed for signs of progress from the plan. Other indicators, such

as local per capita sales of fast food, could also be analyzed. Actual, appropriate indicators to be tracked will be revealed through the eventual full development of the proposed plan.

Promote Equity: We appreciate the need for planning that is sustainable and improves the quality of life for all residents of Kings County. As seen in Figure 1-1 (Appendix C), our CAP will seek to increase locally-grown, healthy food options, accessibility to transit and access to park facilities in our communities. These are aspects of social equity that have the added co-benefit of improving public health.

Additionally, our public outreach has been designed with equity in mind. We intend to conduct extensive public outreach efforts in all of our communities so that all citizens play a role in the development and implementation of the climate action plan. This topic is discussed further in Step 3 questions 1B, 5A and 5B of this application. We hope to generate as much public input as possible so that the plan is truly reflective of the goals and ideals of our citizens.

Increase Affordable Housing: While housing prices are lower in Kings County when compared to other parts of the state, affordable housing is an issue at the crux of our sustainable planning efforts. The overall median household income for the entire county and the cities is \$36,000. Although the San Joaquin Valley as a whole remains ravaged by the foreclosure crisis, we understand the importance of a long-term commitment to affordable housing for when the housing market inevitably rebounds.

KCAG's reduction targets proposed to ARB were based on strategies outlined by our member agencies for future smart growth projects in their jurisdictions. Among these projects were several affordable housing and senior housing projects near transit stations. Additionally, our Kings County Blueprint Principles indicate that a variety of housing choices are needed for our region to grow in a sustainable manner. Studies increasingly indicate a "graying" of California's population. While Kings County's average age remains lower than other areas, it is important to provide a mix of housing options for a population increasing in average age. Our CAP will elaborate on these existing strategies and quantify how they can be included into planning to successfully reduce GHG in a manner consistent with housing elements and the Regional Housing Needs Allocation process (RHNA).

Promote Infill and Compact Development: As mentioned above, the Kings County Blueprint Principles support a variety of housing options in our future growth, including compact and infill development. Several of our jurisdictions are seeking Focus Area #1 of Proposition 84 funding to update their zoning ordinances to accommodate mixed-use development and other smart growth strategies. We hope our CAP will build on these to provide additional strategies for promoting infill and compact development in our communities.

As mentioned above, our CAP will seek to engage the community to bolster an understanding of infill and compact development and its role in our sustainable future. Our agencies have vacant lands identified in their communities as part of the housing element update. The intention is to identify infill properties that could be developed to accommodate the RHNA requirements. Kings County already enjoys many best practices for compact development. As discussed in the urban and community centers section, many of our towns were founded in the late 19th century. Because of this, there are tangible examples of compact developments in our urban cores. Making individuals more aware of the importance of compact development will help us realize their GHG reduction benefits.

Revitalize Urban and Community Centers: Cultivating and maintaining a sense of place is a key component to rural smart growth strategies. Kings County's communities already enjoy well-developed characters that contribute to community pride in each of our jurisdictions. Our climate action plan will place more focus on maintaining the unique character of each of our communities. Kings County's

Victorian-era downtowns remain some of our communities' greatest attributes. Like many urban centers, the recent economic downturn has adversely impacted our downtowns with many "mom and pop" stores closing their doors. The City of Corcoran recently completed an extremely successful downtown façade improvement program that provided funding to downtown business for improving the aesthetics of their storefronts. Continuing this trend through landscaping, façade improvements, economic outreach, redevelopment, energy-efficient retrofitting and promoting walkable communities will bolster community pride, stimulate local businesses, and reduce infrastructural costs associated with outmoded, sprawl-style development patterns.

Protect Natural Resources and Agricultural Lands: As part of the fourth year tasks of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint effort, staff is currently working on developing a greenprint overlay that focuses on agricultural and open space preservation, water conservation, recreational facilities, and other issues pertaining to conserving natural resources. The CAP will maintain consistency with the greenprint effort, the California Wildlife Action Plan, the Natural Community Conservation Plan and the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act. For our plan, we have identified the following focus areas to be evaluated to protect and enhance our environmental and agricultural lands:

- 1) Agricultural Preservation and Buffers: Kings County has an established tradition as an agricultural powerhouse in the State of California. Our climate action plan will build on the existing agricultural preservation plan founding the County of Kings' 2035 General Plan to explore the possible development of agricultural buffers between our cities.
- 2) Xeriscaping: Parks and urban greening measures are an important way to promote public health and reduce energy consumption. The cost of maintenance for these facilities can be of concern for public works departments during difficult economic times. As such, our climate action plan will evaluate water-efficient, low maintenance landscaping for parks and streets as strategies to promote walkability and curb obesity with limited staffing and resources.
- 3) Elective Water Conservation: Reducing domestic consumption of water is a vital component of water conservation efforts. Our climate action plan will evaluate measures targeting elective water conservation. Particular attention will be paid to topics like water efficient appliances, water efficient fixtures, UC Verde drought-tolerant buffalo grass, and other means of reducing water consumption.

Reduce Automobile Usage and Fuel Consumption: As mentioned above, many of our agencies already have clean vehicles in their fleets. We will seek to increase the number of low carbon vehicles to reduce municipal emissions. Additionally, the County of Kings is subject to the SJVAPCD's Rule 9410, which requires large employers to reduce employee work trips during business hours. We expect our CAP to provide guidance on Rule 9410 compliance and provide strategies that smaller agencies could integrate into their offices' daily operations to meet the same objective. Additionally, our CAP's focus on alternative modes of transportation will seek to reduce citizens' vehicle trips and fuel consumption.

Improve Infrastructure Systems: In parts of some of our communities, basic infrastructural components like curbs and gutters are in need of serious repair or do not exist. To successfully and safely integrate strategies like bicycling and walking into all of our communities, we will need to address these infrastructural improvements in a comprehensive manner. This was addressed in the Kings County 2035 General Plan Update and several policies were adopted to improve the special districts' infrastructure systems. While funding mechanisms are currently being sought to rectify these gaps in infrastructure, our CAP will provide further guidance on infrastructure while focusing on sustainability and environmentally-conscious improvements.

Furthermore, a shift in how we view and manage solid waste through revenue recycling and other such means will yield a decrease in land filling and an increase in recycling, composting and waste-to-energy. This will increase local sustainability and decrease consumption of existing resources. Also, as discussed below in the economic section, we intend on discussing how to successfully integrate solar facilities and infrastructure into our communities. Additionally, we also plan to actively track and monitor our transit infrastructure to demonstrate increases in transit ridership and vanpooling.

Promote Energy Efficiency and Conservation: Among the outcomes identified in Figure 1-1 (Appendix C) are reducing municipal, residential and commercial energy consumption. The Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC) states that retrofitting for energy efficiency is one of the most effective means of reducing energy consumption. Additionally, our plan will seek to develop strategies for residences, businesses, and local governments to conserve energy and reduce their consumption. Given the current economic conditions, we anticipate that strategies to reduce energy bills will be received with enthusiasm, particularly considering our hot summer months.

Promote Water Conservation: We appreciate the need for compact and infill development to aid the Kings County Water Commission in its endeavors. The Environmental Protection Agency's study *Protecting Water Resources with Higher-Density Development* concludes that compact, infill development protects water. In modeling several density scenarios, the study concludes that higher density produces less "impervious cover than low density development" and "generate less storm water runoff per house at all scales."

Also, as a county almost entirely comprised of the western San Joaquin Valley, water availability and conservation remain crucial for our continued livelihood. We realize the need for integrating infill development into planning for water conservation and protection. This is reflected in the County of King's 2035 General Plan, which focuses growth in existing urban cores and almost doubles available acreage for higher residential densities. A focus on infill development paired with the xeriscaping and elective water conservation campaign will ensure that our CAP will promote water conservation. Many of our agencies have adopted ordinances that reflect the state's regulations for landscape water requirements to reduce municipal water usage as well.

Strengthen the Economy: Kings County's communities strive to improve their economic base with increased job opportunities, affordable housing and ethnic diversity through participation in the Kings County Enterprises Zone. This program provides incentives to employers that maintain their business in Kings County. Additionally, as mentioned in our SB 375 target-setting document, there are currently several potential solar facilities being planned in various locations throughout Kings County. Our region's rural nature, ample sunshine, and proximity to the power grid that runs along Interstate 5 make it an ideal location for solar facilities. Solar businesses will also help our local jurisdictions attract green collar professionals and diversify Kings County's economy and workforce. Included in this application packet is a letter of support from the Kings County Economic Development Corporation. We understand that Kings County has the potential to be a burgeoning green collar hub. Our CAP will address this aspect of climate change by providing guidance on readiness to enter a cap and trade program and integrating green collar technology into our economy.

STEP 3: PRIORITY CONSIDERATIONS

1a. Describe tasks undertaken by all entities involved in the work plan

The County of Kings and cities of Avenal, Corcoran, Hanford and Lemoore, in partnership with the Kings County Association of Governments, will all be directly invested throughout the development of a

countywide emissions inventory and a CAP that identifies strategies and mitigation measures specific to each jurisdiction as detailed in the Appendix A budgets.

Each of the jurisdictions identified above will be responsible for coordinating data requests, assisting in strategy and mitigation measure development, assisting in community outreach, and will be committed to the long term implementation and monitoring of GHG emissions in Kings County. In addition, a Climate Action Committee (CAC) will be established to include additional members of the community that will provide representation, expertise, and commitment to reducing GHG countywide. The CAC will provide direction through the grant effort and will be responsible for the monitoring and implementation of the CAP. A consultant will be retained to aid the Kings County jurisdictions in public outreach, conducting the emissions inventory, and cultivating a document that reflects our specified objectives, benchmarks and outcomes.

The fourteen work tasks as detailed in the work plan identify the key responsible parties and estimated time frame in which each task will be undertaken. As there are six individual governing boards that will ultimately take action on the final Kings County CAP, it must be anticipated that development of the Kings County CAP will be lengthier than a single jurisdiction's CAP. All six governing boards will be given regular updates on the progress of the Kings County CAP and will be expected to take formal action on the final products. Please refer to Appendix B for additional details.

1b. Describe how other entities will be engaged in the development and/ or implementation of the Proposal (e.g., local governments, state entities, COGs, MPOs, transit agencies, health agencies, air districts, local businesses, landowners, general public, environmental groups, low income households and/ or groups that represent them, etc).

The development of the Kings County CAP will be an open and inclusive process that will draw from the expertise of multiple agencies. There are two specific ways in which other entities will be engaged in the development of the plan. First, a countywide Climate Action Committee will be assembled to provide the project management direction and to be responsible for the long term monitoring and implementation. Representatives from regional agencies such as the SJVAPCD will be invited to participate. It is envisioned the committee will include representatives from local governments, regional governments, transit agencies, health agencies, local business, community residents, community service districts, environmental groups, and representatives from low income households. These groups would also be involved in the implementation plan developed as part of the CAP. All Climate Action Committee meetings will be open to the public with materials available on the internet. Second, all agencies will have the opportunity to attend public meetings or workshops and are encouraged to comment on the grant products as they are developed.

1c. Describe how the community will be engaged in the planning process.

In keeping with the success of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint and Envision Utah in generating public involvement, our King County CAP contains innovative and successful strategies for public engagement. In addition to holding multiple meetings in each jurisdiction, we will post documents on our agencies' websites and encourage active feedback on the plan. The countywide Climate Action Committee will provide final direction on what strategies are ultimately pursued, but below are additional possibilities:

- 1) Give presentations to local governing boards regarding the county-wide climate action plan throughout the CAP development or as requested.
- 2) Host a booth at the Kings County Homecoming Celebration (a county-wide event with an activity in each jurisdiction) and the Kings County Fair with resources for the public.

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- 3) Maintain an online resource center through the KCAG website for citizens seeking information on climate change.
- 4) Host a poster contest for K-12 students for ways to reduce GHG emissions.
- 5) Hold community workshops or meetings in each of the cities and the county with an overview of the climate action plan emissions inventory and mitigation measures.

2a. Does the proposal include tools or processes that could be easily accessed and used by other government agencies to develop plans or strategies for sustainable communities?

The Kings County CAP will serve as a template for other rural jurisdictions seeking to develop a CAP both in maximization of economies of scale and in our progressive environmental stewardship. Furthermore, as a county in the western San Joaquin Valley, we anticipate that certain strategies in the CAP will be applicable to comparable regions in the western United States and even in other arid climates across the globe. The final document will be posted on our websites and available for downloading to help realize this.

In addition to this grant application, the San Joaquin Valley COGs are applying for focus area #2 funding for valley-wide efforts. The COGs are seeking grant funds to develop preliminary tools for agencies interested in developing CAPs in the valley. KCAG and our jurisdictions have been working to establish a region-specific CAP for some time and have a successful track record of collaboration. While the valley-wide effort will evaluate policies potentially transferrable to our agencies, our CAP follows the ICLEI methodology by first developing a county-wide GHG inventory. Thus is no duplication of efforts in the two applications and the valley's effort will nicely compliment the Kings County Climate Action Plan.

2b. How will your agency promote and share the Proposal's information, tools or processes?

The Kings County CAP final products will be promoted and shared as a best practice example for other jurisdiction(s) and all products will be made accessible to the greater public. To ensure that the CAP is made accessible an inclusive process will be undertaken including the three-tiered approach to promoting the plan and its components described below. The coverage areas are as follows:

- 1) Media Outreach: Ensure that there is proper media coverage before and after any public meetings and workshops so citizens are informed of this process and given the opportunity to participate.
- 2) Email Outreach: Develop an email mailing list where interested groups and individuals can receive updates regarding the development and implementation of the county-wide climate action plan.
- 3) Web Outreach: Create a climate change webpage with information on Kings County efforts to address climate change. The webpage will likely include information on all applicable plans and links to resources focused on conservation and sustainable living. KCAG will also include this information on the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Toolkit resource, an open-source style website being developed for planners to exchange information in the valley.

3a. Identify funding sources and amount already committed to the proposal and expected timing of funds. Detail whether funds are in the form of cash contributions, in-kind services, volunteer effort, donated labor or materials, technical expertise, etc.

Like most state and local governments, KCAG's member agencies are currently faced with tough budgetary times including hiring freezes, layoffs, and potential furloughs for the foreseeable future. As in times of past fiscal crises, we will rely on our long-established precedent of innovative collaboration to leverage resources to achieve our greater shared goals in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The

jurisdictions have affirmed an in-kind contribution of staff time for this project. In addition, the cities of Corcoran and Hanford have each identified \$5,000 for a total amount of \$10,000 to be applied towards the GHG emission inventory. We greatly look forward to demonstrating to planning departments across the county how collaboration and teamwork can successfully achieve climate change goals in spite of current economic strife.

3b. Identify potential future funding sources and the amount expected to be committed to the proposal. Detail whether funds are in the form of cash contributions, in-kind services, volunteer effort, donated labor or materials, technical expertise, etc.

Although we do not currently have future funding sources identified, we understand that climate action plans are frequently a requisite for eligibility for certain funding sources. With this in mind, we hope to include an element on funding sources in our CAP. Our ultimate goal would be to provide a resource on how our member agencies can seek funding previously unavailable to them for smart growth projects.

4a. Identify the potential climate change impacts on the population, or human or natural areas, or systems most vulnerable to those impacts within the planning area.

As cited in a report recently completed for the Fresno County area, there are climate change projections for Kings County that have the potential to definitively change the structure of our societies, jeopardize our agrarian prosperity, and alter the climate zone conditions that allows for the proliferation of the respective animals, habitats, and natural resources. The projections in this report represent the most likely range of future conditions using mid and late century model projections as based on the best available data. Whereas the mid-century projections are highly likely due to historical actions releasing GHGs, the late-century projections are more difficult to project as future emissions are subject to change.

With a high degree of certainty, the model projects show that there will be higher temperatures, lower snowpack levels, and a shifting distribution of plants and animals. There is medium certainty that storms will be more severe, changes in precipitation, and wildfire patterns. Alone, any one of these climate change variables has several estimated consequences and many more unforeseen influences on the greater human and animal ecosystems. Kings County is highly dependent upon the winter snowpack that provides water resources to supply our urban population centers and rural farms. A decrease or shift in water availability or quality will have significant impacts necessitating an increase in limited ground water supplies.

An increase in temperatures will oblige additional water resources and at some foreseeable point, a change in the type of crops that can be successfully grown the San Joaquin Valley. The uncertain availability of water will further strain the limited groundwater aquifers that have sustained the Valley during periodic drought periods. These described projected climate change impacts will negatively impact our human and natural systems.

4b. How does the proposal improve adaptation to the impacts for these populations, human or natural areas, or systems?

The Kings County CAP will provide an inventory of existing GHG emissions and begin the important discussions of what local governments, businesses and residents can do to directly reduce those emissions. Through a series of community outreach activities, education and incremental steps will be the principle foundation to ensure the long term reduction of countywide GHGs. For example, by focusing on the increased daytime temperatures, building practices can be reexamined to use renewable resources that help to reduce energy consumption, thus having a decrease in the overall use of that specific development. By encouraging the conservation of existing natural habitats, these areas can

continue to provide protection and the viable means for species to be successful. The broad range of data and strategies examined in the CAP may also encourage individuals or agencies to identify more sustainable practices that can replace necessary functions in their respective fields of profession.

The key aspect of the CAP will be the continued monitoring of GHG emissions. This imperative data will be disseminated to the local municipalities, businesses, and residents so that the greater goals of climate change will be at least annually reinforced. Education is arguably one of the most important strategies in ensuring that our human and natural systems can be successful in the future.

5a. How will this proposal specifically benefit a disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged community (see Glossary)?

As detailed in Appendix G, Kings County is in the severely disadvantaged community status given our jurisdictions' average percentages of the 2008 state median income. The CAP will benefit all communities in Kings County. However, given the county's high unemployment rates and significant number of families living in poverty, the CAP will identify a menu of relatively inexpensive strategies that will not place additional burdens on our disadvantaged communities. GHG reduction strategies will be identified specifically for rural or urban communities focusing on both simple steps that can be taken without a large investment of financial resources or more complicated and financially challenging reduction strategies. This menu approach will allow a family or business to pick and choose applicable steps that can be taken now and future steps that may be more timely or expensive. Furthermore, the development of the Kings County CAP will include multiple opportunities for public involvement and comment and will specifically target underrepresented individuals or groups.

5b. Discuss how the economically disadvantaged community has been and will continue to be engaged and participatory in the development of the proposal.

A detailed public participation plan will ensure broad and meaningful public participation in the CAP. The project team will employ a variety of outreach methods to ensure that all stakeholders and residents are provided an opportunity to participate in the process of establishing reduction activities. Of particular importance will be reaching residents who have not historically participated in planning efforts. To reach these residents, the project team will work closely with community leaders and organizations to utilize existing social networks to advertise meetings and solicit input. We intend to host two town hall meetings in each of the jurisdictions and anticipate conducting Spanish-language outreach to promote active public involvement and input throughout the process.

STEP 4: ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

1. What is your organization's experience in completing this type of Proposal or similar Proposals? Is the expertise needed for the successful development of the Proposal available within the organization? If not, how do you plan to acquire it?

KCAG staff has the organizational experience to successfully complete a multi-jurisdictional planning project such as the proposed countywide CAP. As an MPO, KCAG completes all its mandated tasks with the vested interests of our five member agencies including the County of Kings and Cities of Avenal, Corcoran, Hanford and Lemoore. KCAG has provided administrative and collaborative oversight in prior planning efforts that have included multiple agencies. Just recently, KCAG oversaw the multi-jurisdictional Housing Element update that was recognized by HCD as an innovative approach to the process. This collaboration also provided a significant cost savings to our member jurisdictions. Staff also currently involved in a multi-county planning effort where KCAG is providing the administrative

and coordinative support services. KCAG feels confident that we have the necessary skills to ensure the successful development of the Kings County CAP given our proven track record.

2. Do you have active partners that will help develop the Proposal? How?

There are many active partners and agencies in Kings County that will help develop the proposed Kings County CAP. As described above in section 1b, a Climate Action Committee will be developed to guide the development of the plan and to serve in a leadership role through the collection of GHG emissions data. This ongoing data collection will allow these active partners to be invested in the long term reduction of GHG emissions. These partners may include, but are not limited to the County of Kings, cities of Avenal, Corcoran, Hanford and Lemoore, local Offices of Education, the Economic Development Corporation, Community Services Districts, non-profits, environmental groups, low-income residents, business owners, youth, and seniors. In addition, there will be multiple community workshops and meetings where agencies or residents will have the opportunity to provide input.

3. How will the Proposal be kept on schedule and within budget?

Our work plan specifies the timeframe for expending the funds within the allotted 36 months. Our Climate Action Committee (CAC) will oversee the grant process and will ensure that benchmarks are met within the appropriate timeframes. As previously indicated, our agencies do not have the means to pick up any additional costs associated with the development of the climate action plan due to difficult budgetary times. Necessity paired with the CAC's prudent oversight will ensure the project is kept on time and within budget. KCAG will utilize its existing quarterly reporting system to process reimbursement claims and ensure that the CAP remains on schedule and does not go over budget.

4. If the Proposal goes over budget, explain your contingency plan to cover the cost.

As the jurisdictions do not have any additional resources that could be allocated toward a contingency plan, going over budget is not a viable option during times of budgetary crisis. If proposals submitted by consultants are not within the range of our work plan, the Climate Action Committee will rely on the three different budgets in Appendix A that assume different levels of funding to craft the plan in a manner that makes fiscal sense and is consistent with the goals detailed in this application.

5. Identify in the work plan how the proposal will be implemented, including zoning updates if applicable.

To ensure successful implementation of the Kings County CAP, a monitoring and implementation phase will begin with the successful board action of the six jurisdictions' respective governing boards. The CAC will be instrumental in the monitoring and implementation phase and will continue to meet on a quarterly basis. The Kings County CAP will contain an Implementation Element that identifies actions to be completed in the first five years after the Plan is adopted.

For each action, the Implementation Element will identify the primary party responsible for implementation, other parties involved, time frame for implementation, estimated cost, and funding source. The Implementation Element will be a valuable tool to guide decision-making and the allocation of resources in accordance with the Kings County CAP. The continued monitoring and implementation will help to ensure that the County prioritizes programs that promote sustainable development and achieve the goals established in the General Plan. Reports on the progress on the work effort will be provided by KCAG as requested. In addition to this, the County of Kings and City of Corcoran are seeking focus area #1 funding for the purposes of zoning ordinance updates and general plan updates. These and the templates that will be developed as part of the valley-wide focus area #2 application will be integrated into local planning documents to weave smart growth planning practices into our communities.